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4/26/78

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8-1

NR

April 26, '78

LATIN AMERICA

Argentina

Rights Balance Sheet. On the basis of a detailed balance sheet of human rights pluses and minuses since Secretary Vance's visit to Buenos Aires last November, Embassy Buenos Aires concludes that, as usual, the record is mixed. Positive steps have been taken to regularize detention procedures for executive (state-of-siege) prisoners, and the government has been helpful with several US special interest cases (Timerman, the Voglers, and the Deutschs.) However, there has been no significant change in the counterterrorist tactics responsible for so many violations in the past, and security personnel now may be targeting a somewhat broader range of people than before. Human rights improvements have tended to occur in areas where little or no security risk is involved and the internal political cost for the Videla government is minimized.

Perhaps the most significant development in recent months, according to the Embassy, has been the effort of government officials to refurbish Argentina's international image, an

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IP5

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

() Release (X) Excise () Deny

Exemption(s): B1, NR

Declassify: (X) In Part () In Full

(X) Classify as S () Extend as () Downgrade to

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image they now admit is badly tarnished. (SECRET, Buenos Aires
2907, April 17; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 8-1

INR Comment: Pressure from the security forces is
unlikely to decrease before the conclusion of the World Cup
soccer championship that will be played in Argentina in June.

[REDACTED] has reported that in 8-1
late March army commanders decided, in light of the World
Cup matches, to maintain the same counterterrorist tactics
employed during the past two years. [REDACTED]

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